

Colorado Tops 5.2 Million as 4th Fastest Growing State Since 2012: New Census Bureau Release

Colorado's total population grew 1.52% to 5,268,367 between July 1, 2012 and July 1, 2013, ranking as the 4th fastest in annual percentage growth and 5th fastest in absolute growth in the nation. The United States as a whole grew .72% from 2012 to a total population of 316,128,839.

The Census Bureau produces population estimates each year, allowing our nation, states and communities to gauge our growth and demographic composition. The population estimates use administrative data to estimate population change between census years, using the decennial census count as a starting point. Estimates are used by local governments to locate services and by the private sector to locate businesses.

The Denver-Aurora-Lakewood Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had a total population increase of 50,782, large enough to be the 11th fastest growing MSA in the nation for absolute change and 27th fastest by percentage increase. Greeley is the 13th fastest growing MSA by percentage growth in the nation. This is according to new Census Bureau MSA and County estimates released last Thursday.

Douglas County is the fastest growing county in Colorado by percentage change, up 2.47% (ranking 59th Nationally), while Denver County is the fastest growing in absolute terms, increasing 14,953 (ranking 32nd Nationally). Much of the growth in the State is located on the Front Range in these and other fast growing counties such as Arapahoe, El Paso, Adams, and Weld. Mountain counties, such as Mineral, Chaffee, Gilpin, and Summit all rank in the top 10 for percentage growth within the state.

Most of the growth in Colorado is due to net migration, more people come than leave a particular county. This is true of all of the top 10 fastest growing counties. This trend is also true for those counties that are losing population. 22 counties lost population this year; however, this is down from 26 counties in 2012, and 29 counties in 2011. Net migration is closely tied to jobs, so both the growth and decline in population is likely linked to economic forces.

Colorado's rapid growth as a state is not dominated by one specific area, but is more geographically dispersed. Despite not having an MSA in the top 10 nationally for growth, fewer counties are losing population and more are growing. Colorado has 3 counties in the top 100 in the nation for percentage growth (of those with more than 10,000 population) and 7 counties in the top 100 for absolute growth.

During 2014, the Census Bureau will release estimates of the 2013 total population of counties, incorporated places, and metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas as well as national, state and county population estimates by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin.

The State Demography Office also releases annual population estimates and projections. Our most current release is available on our website: www.Colorado.gov/demography

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The Census Bureau develops state population estimates by measuring population change since the most recent census. The Census Bureau uses births, deaths, administrative records and survey data to develop estimates of population. For more

detail regarding the methodology see <<http://www.census.gov/popest/methodology/>>.

The 10 Fastest Growing Colorado Counties from July 1, 2012 to July 1, 2013

Rank	County	Percent Change
1	Douglas County	2.53%
2	Weld County	2.38%
3	Denver County	2.36%
4	Mineral County	2.27%
5	Chaffee County	2.11%
6	Broomfield County	1.99%
7	Adams County	1.99%
8	Gilpin County	1.89%
9	Arapahoe County	1.88%
10	Summit County	1.77%

The 10 Colorado Counties with the Largest Population Increase from July 1, 2012 to July 1, 2013

Rank	County	Numeric Change
1	Denver County	14953
2	Arapahoe County	11220
3	El Paso County	9605
4	Adams County	9136
5	Douglas County	7546
6	Jefferson County	6322
7	Weld County	6260
8	Larimer County	5302
9	Boulder County	4751
10	Broomfield County	1160